

The Supreme Court says it is adopting a code of ethics

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday adopted its first code of ethics, in the face of sustained criticism over undisclosed trips and gifts from wealthy benefactors to some justices, but the code lacks a means of enforcement. The policy, agreed to by all nine justices, does not appear to impose any significant new requirements and leaves compliance entirely to each justice. Indeed, the justices said they have long adhered to ethics standards and suggested that criticism of the court over ethics was the product of misunderstanding, rather than any missteps by the justices. "The absence of a Code, however, has led in recent years to the misunderstanding that the Justices of this Court, unlike all other jurists in this country, regard themselves as unrestricted by any ethics rules," the justices wrote in an unsigned statement that accompanied the code.

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The U.S. Supreme Court is seen, Nov. 3, 2023, in Washington.

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The Supreme Court says it is adopting a code of ethics

Continued from Front

"To dispel this misunderstanding, we are issuing this Code, which largely represents a codification of principles that we have long regarded as governing our conduct."

In September, Justice Elena Kagan acknowledged that there were disagreements among the justices over the contents of an ethics code, but did not specify what they were. The justices achieved unanimity Monday, but predictably offered no explanation for how they got there.

Liberal critics of the court were not satisfied, with one group saying the code "reads a lot more like a friendly suggestion than a binding, enforceable guideline."

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., one of the loudest voices complaining about the court's ethical shortcomings, mixed praise for the court with a call to do more.

"This is a long-overdue step by the justices, but a code of ethics is not binding unless there is a mechanism to investigate possible violations and enforce the rules. The honor system has not worked for members of the Roberts Court," Whitehouse



Members of the Supreme Court sit for a new group portrait following the addition of Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, at the Supreme Court building in Washington, Oct. 7, 2022. Bottom row, from left, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Justice Clarence Thomas, Chief Justice John Roberts, Justice Samuel Alito, and Justice Elena Kagan. Top row, from left, Justice Amy Coney Barrett, Justice Neil Gorsuch, Justice Brett Kavanaugh, and Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

Associated Press

said.

A court ethics code proposed by Whitehouse that cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee without any Republican support would allow for complaints and investigation by lower-court judges.

The ethics issue has vexed the court for several months, over a series of stories questioning the ethical practices of the justices.

Many of those stories focused on Justice Clarence Thomas and his failure to disclose travel, other hospitality and additional financial ties with wealthy conservative donors including Harlan Crow and the Koch brothers. But Justices Samuel Alito and Sonia Sotomayor also have been under scrutiny.

Three justices, Amy Coney Barrett, Brett Kavanaugh

and Kagan have voiced support for an ethics code in recent months. In May, Chief Justice John Roberts said there was more the court could do to "adhere to the highest ethical standards," without providing any specifics.

Public trust in and approval of the court is hovering near record lows, according to a Gallup Poll released just before the court's new

term began on Oct. 2.

As recently as last week, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said the justices could quiet some of the criticism and a Democratic push to impose an ethics code on the court by putting in place their own policy.

Durbin's panel, which has been investigating the court's ethics, has been planning to subpoena Crow and conservative activist Leonard Leo about their roles in organizing and paying for justices' luxury travel. Republicans complained that Democrats were mostly reacting to decisions they didn't like from the conservative-dominated court, including overturning the nationwide right to an abortion.

The Democratic-backed ethics bill also would require that justices provide more information about potential conflicts of interest and written explanations about their decisions not to recuse. It would also seek to improve transparency around gifts received by justices. The Democratic bill had little prospect of becoming law in the Republican-controlled House, much less the closely divided Senate. □



Indonesian President Joko Widodo, left, and Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi inspect the relief supplies for Palestinians in Gaza, before its departure at Halim Perdanakusuma air base in Jakarta, Indonesia, Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023.

Associated Press

By CHRIS MEGIERIAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden will host Indonesian President Joko Widodo at the White House as the two countries strengthen their relationship, one day before the

U.S. leader leaves for San Francisco to attend a summit of Asian leaders.

The presidents will share an afternoon tea and meet with top advisers, according to senior administration officials who insisted on anonymity to preview

Tea and nickel are on the agenda as Biden hosts Indonesia's president

the schedule. Indonesia and the United States are formalizing a new strategic partnership as they move toward closer collaboration. Also on the agenda will be expanding the trade of critical minerals like nickel, which can be used to produce electric vehicle batteries. Indonesia is the world's largest producer of nickel.

In remarks at Georgetown University ahead of his arrival at the White House, Widodo said a closer relationship with Washington could pay dividends.

"The United States is a big country, and its influence to any other coun-

try is also very big." White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Widodo and Biden "will explore opportunities to enhance cooperation on the clean energy transition, advance economic prosperity, bolster regional peace and stability, and reinforce our people-to-people ties."

Biden's meeting with Widodo comes shortly before he sits down with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. However, events in the Middle East are expected to intrude on the agenda. Widodo will be arriving in the U.S. after

making a previous stop in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for a summit of Muslim leaders. While there, he joined in calls for a ceasefire and denounced the Israeli bombardment and invasion of Gaza, which began after Hamas attacked on Oct. 7. Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim country, and a senior administration official said "their views and their engagement are critical" on the war between Israel and Hamas. The official said Biden would seek to have Widodo "play a larger role" in the Middle East, although it was unclear exactly what that would entail. □

International students have returned to U.S. colleges, fueled by a surge from India

By COLLIN BINKLEY
AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — International students attended U.S. universities in surging numbers last year, rebounding from a pandemic slump with the help of a 35% jump in students coming from India, according to a study released Monday. Overall, the number of international students in the U.S. grew by 12% in the 2022-23 academic year, the largest single-year increase in more than 40 years, according to findings from the State Department and the nonprofit Institute of International Education. More than 1 million students came from abroad, the most since the 2019-20 school year.

"This reinforces that the U.S. remains the destination of choice for international students wishing to study abroad, as it has been for more than a century," said Allan E. Goodman, CEO of the Institute of International Education. American colleges enrolled nearly 269,000 students from India, more than ever and second only to China. Most came for graduate programs, often in science, technology and business. "The U.S. maintains a strong relationship with India on education, which I think is



Students walk to and from classes on the Indiana University campus, Thursday, Oct. 14, 2021, in Bloomington, Ind.

getting even stronger and even more connected," said Marianne Craven, the State Department's acting deputy assistant secretary for academic exchange. China still accounted for the most foreign students in the U.S. with 290,000, but its numbers decreased for a third consecutive year. It reflects a gradual shift. After years of booming demand from China, interest has ebbed amid chilly international relations and increased competition from

universities in the United Kingdom and Canada. Officials behind the new study also blame prolonged travel restrictions in Asia during the pandemic. At the same time, U.S. universities have focused on recruiting in India, hoping to tap a growing population that the United Nations predicted would overtake China as the world's largest this year. Students from India now outnumber those from China in 24 U.S. states, including Illinois, Texas

and Michigan, which rank among the top destinations for international students. For the second consecutive year, America's graduate programs were the main attraction for international students, the study finds. Graduate enrollment grew by 21%, while undergraduate numbers ticked up 1%. It reverses a trend from the previous decade, which saw undergraduates come in larger numbers. Much of last year's growth is credited to math and com-

puter science programs, which attracted more students than any other subject and saw a 20% boost in enrollment over the previous year.

Engineering and business followed behind. Taken together, those three fields account for more than half of all international students in the United States.

The surge nearly brings international numbers back to their pre-pandemic highs, with a peak of almost 1.1 million students in 2018. Enrollment fell precipitously over the following two years as COVID-19 stifled academic exchange.

The rebound appears to be continuing, with an 8% increase in international enrollment this fall, according to a smaller survey meant to give a snapshot of recent trends.

Overall, international students made up just 5.6% of all college students in the 2022-23 year, but they play an outsized role in U.S. higher education.

University leaders say they're important for global exchange, and they're also important for revenue — international students are usually charged higher tuition rates, effectively subsidizing college for U.S. students. □

Associated Press

Jill Biden will lead new initiative to boost federal government research into women's health

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration on Monday announced a White House initiative to improve how the federal government approaches and funds research into the health of women, who make up more than half of the U.S. population but remain understudied and underrepresented in health research.

That underrepresentation can lead to big gaps in research and potentially serious consequences for the health of women across

the country, Biden administration officials and others told reporters during a White House conference call to announce the new effort.

The White House Initiative on Women's Health Research will be led by first lady Jill Biden and the White House Gender Policy Council.

President Biden said he's long been a believer in the "power of research" to help save lives and get high-quality health care to the people who need it. He was to sign paperwork Monday directing federal

departments to get to work on the initiative.

"To achieve scientific breakthroughs and strengthen our ability to prevent, detect and treat diseases, we have to be bold," the president said in a written statement.

He said the initiative will "drive innovation in women's health and close research gaps."

Jill Biden said during the conference call that she met earlier this year with former California first lady and women's health advocate Maria Shriver, who "raised the need for an effort inside



President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden, walk to Marine One on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Nov. 11, 2023.

Associated Press

and outside government to close the research gaps in

women's health that have persisted far too long." □

Police and protesters clash at Atlanta training center site derided by opponents as 'Cop City'

By R.J. RICO

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Police used tear gas and flash-bang grenades Monday to halt a march against building an Atlanta-area police and firefighter training center that opponents call "Cop City."

More than 400 people marched about 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) from a park to the site in suburban DeKalb County, chanting "stop Cop City" and "Viva, viva Tortugueta," invoking the nickname of an activist who was fatally shot by state troopers while camping in the woods in protest earlier this year.

A wedge of marchers, including some in masks, goggles and chemical suits intended to protect against tear gas, pushed into a line of officers in riot gear on a road outside the training center site. Officers pushed back and deployed tear gas. One protester threw a canister back at officers. Protests against the proposed training center have been going on for more than two years. Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr obtained a sweeping indictment in August, using the state's anti-racketeering law to charge 61 protesters, characterizing them as "militant anarchists." Protesters called Monday's march "Block Cop



Police disperse a crowd of protesters with gas during a demonstration in opposition to a new police training center, Monday, Nov. 13, 2023, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

City" and events were held across the country in recent weeks to support the movement. It was the latest effort to stop construction of a project that has galvanized environmentalists and anti-police protesters across the country. Protester Sam Beard, rallying the crowd Monday, said the movement has fused environmentalists and police abolitionists.

"We are never letting go of each other again," Beard said. "That is what has made this movement powerful. That is what has made this movement dangerous."

Some marchers retreated from the clash while others tried to wash away the effects of tear gas. Dozens of protesters ran into the woods near the property where the training center is being built and exited with their hands up. The marchers eventually retreated as a group without any arrests being made. Vomiting and irritation from the tear gas were the only apparent injuries.

Police agencies including the DeKalb County Police Department and Georgia state troopers were guarding the site, including with

armored vehicles.

In a statement, DeKalb County police said the march was not permitted and that protesters refused commands to disperse and clear the roadway.

Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens and other supporters say the 85-acre, \$90 million facility would replace inadequate training facilities and help the police department recruit and retain officers. Opponents say the facility could lead to greater police militarization and that its construction in the South River Forest will worsen environmental damage

in a poor, majority-Black area. Ahead of the march, Kamau Franklin of Community Movement Builders told the crowd they had a duty to practice civil disobedience against the project. Prior to the march, Beard said the activists had been urged not to bring weapons, use incendiary devices or destroy construction equipment.

"You are standing up strong and fighting a struggle to stop a militarized complex which is meant to continue to over-police Black and brown communities in this country and is meant to stop movements against police violence and police militarism," Franklin said.

Some protesters in Monday's march had hoped to reoccupy the wooded area that includes the construction site and adjoining park. Activists spent months camping in the woods there until police pushed them out in January. That sweep included the fatal shooting of 26-year-old protester Manuel Esteban Paez Terán, known as Tortugueta.

A prosecutor last month declined to pursue charges against the state troopers who shot Paez Terán, saying the activist shot a trooper and that law enforcement's use of deadly force was "objectively reasonable." □



Federal judge Maryanne Trump Barry, older sister of Donald Trump, sits in the balcony during Trump's election night rally in New York, Nov. 9, 2016.

Associated Press

By MARYCLAIRE DALE and KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Maryanne Trump Barry, a retired federal judge and former

Maryanne Trump Barry, the former president's older sister and a retired federal judge, dies at 86

president Donald Trump's oldest sister, has died at age 86 at her home in New York.

Until her retirement in 2019, Barry was a senior judge on the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, a level below the Supreme Court.

The NYPD confirmed that officers were sent to Barry's Manhattan home just before 4:30 a.m. and discovered a deceased 86-year-old woman. The cause of death was not immediately clear. Her death was confirmed by a judicial official

who spoke on condition of anonymity because Barry's death hadn't been announced publicly by either the court or Trump's family. Trump's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Before becoming a judge, Barry became an Assistant U.S. Attorney in 1974 and was nominated to the federal court in New Jersey by former President Ronald Reagan. She was later elevated to the U.S. Court of Appeals by former President Bill Clinton. She retired

in 2019 amid an investigation into her family's tax practices.

Barry had stayed largely out of the spotlight during her brother's presidency, but drew headlines after her niece, Mary Trump, revealed that she had secretly recorded her aunt while promoting a book that denounced the former president. In the recordings, Barry could be heard sharply criticizing her brother, at one point saying the former president "has no principles" and is "cruel." □

El Salvador slaps a \$1,130 fee on African and Indian travelers

By **MEGAN JANETSKY**

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — El Salvador's government has begun slapping a \$1,130 fee on travelers from dozens of countries connecting through the nation's main airport, amid U.S. pressure to help control migration flows to its southern border.

Since the end of October, citizens of 57 largely African countries and India have had to pay the fee, according to El Salvador's aviation authority.

Aviation officials did not say whether the measure was aimed at reducing migration and have described the tariff as an "airport improvement fee," but El Salvador's government acknowledged an uptick in travelers from those countries this year. Also, the U.S. has been pressuring Central American countries to curb migration flows to its border with Mexico. U.S. authorities say they stopped migrants there more than 2 million times during the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30.

El Salvador's aviation authority said most passengers who have to pay the fee are headed to Nicaragua on the commercial airline Avianca. Because of its lax visa requirements, Nicaragua is a transit point



Retired schoolteacher Tom Wingo of Samaritans Without Borders, right, gives snacks and bottles of waters to a group of migrants claiming to be from India, who just crossed the border wall, Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2023, in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument near Lukeville, Ariz.

Associated Press

for migrants from Haiti and Cuba, as well as from Africa, who are trying to reach the U.S.

Earlier this year, for example, U.S. officials were surprised by an increase in Mauritanian migrants arriving at the southern border. No natural disaster, coup or sudden economic collapse could explain it. Rather, travel agencies and social media influencers were promoting a multileg trip that took migrants from the west African nation to Ni-

caragua.

A flight itinerary of one Senegalese migrant seen by The Associated Press showed the migrant passing through Morocco, Spain and El Salvador before landing in Managua. The last two legs were aboard Avianca flights.

El Salvador's aviation authority and immigration agency both said they did not have data on how many migrants from the listed countries had transited the country this year.

A U.S. embassy spokesperson declined to say whether the U.S. had requested the fee. But the ability to help the U.S. control migration could be a political boon for El Salvador President Nayib Bukele as he seeks reelection despite a constitutional prohibition and faces scrutiny for his human rights record. During President Donald Trump's administration, U.S. policy toward El Salvador prioritized reining in migration above all else and

Bukele heard no public criticism from the U.S. as he began to consolidate power. Under President Joe Biden, the U.S. has been openly critical of Bukele's record on democracy and human rights.

The U.S. State Department alleged that Bukele's war against powerful street gangs has resulted in "torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment, and other related abuses" to tens of thousands of people detained. His government has also gone after journalists, activists and critics.

But migration now appears to be back at the top of the bilateral agenda for the two countries as Biden also seeks reelection.

"Most governments have recognized that what is of clear interest to the United States is migration and so therefore it becomes a bargaining chip," said Pamela Ruiz, Central America analyst for International Crisis Group. "They will either become partners or adversaries on this issue."

Guatemala, Costa Rica, Colombia and Ecuador have worked with the U.S. to open centers for migrants looking to request asylum, apply for family reunification or temporary work permits. □

Rescuers dig to reach 40 workers trapped in collapsed road tunnel in north India

By **BISWAJEET BANERJEE**

Associated Press

LUCKNOW, India (AP) — Rescuers were digging through dirt and parts of a collapsed road tunnel Monday to reach 40 workers trapped by a landslide at the construction project in northern India.

All of the construction workers are safe, police officer Prashant Kumar said, adding that they have been supplied with oxygen and water. He said the rescuers had established contact with the trapped individuals.

The collapse occurred Sunday in Uttarakhand, a

mountainous state dotted with Hindu temples that attracts many pilgrims and tourists.

Massive construction of buildings and roadways have taken place in recent years in Uttarakhand. The trapped workers were building part of the Chardham all-weather road, a flagship federal government project connecting various Hindu pilgrimage sites.

The number of workers trapped was confirmed Monday by Rajesh Pawar, the project manager at the Navyug Construction Company, which is overseeing

the construction of the tunnel.

Rescue efforts began Sunday, with authorities pumping oxygen through a pipe into the collapsed section of the tunnel to help workers breathe.

"The team has progressed 15 meters (yards) into the tunnel, with an additional 35 meters (yards) yet to cover," Kumar said, adding that more than 150 rescuers had used drilling equipment and excavators to clear debris through the night.

The collapsed portion of the 4.5-kilometer (2.7-mile) tunnel is about 200 meters (500



This photo provided by Uttarakhand State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) shows rescuers inside a collapsed road tunnel where more than 30 workers were trapped by a landslide in northern in Uttarakhand state, India, Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023.

Associated Press

feet) from the entrance, officials told the Press Trust of India news agency.

In January, Uttarakhand state authorities moved hundreds of people to tem-

porary shelters after a temple collapsed and cracks appeared in over 600 houses because of the sinking of land in and around Joshimath town in the region. □

Caribbean island of Dominica creates world's first marine protected area for endangered sperm whale

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— The tiny Caribbean island of Dominica is creating the world's first marine protected area for one of earth's largest animals: the endangered sperm whale. Nearly 300 square miles (800 square kilometers) of royal blue waters on the western side of the island nation that serve as key nursing and feeding grounds will be designated as a reserve, the government announced Monday. "We want to ensure these majestic and highly intelligent animals are safe from harm and continue keeping our waters and our climate healthy," Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit said in a statement. Scientists say the reserve not only will protect the animals, but it will also help fight climate change.

Sperm whales defecate near the surface because they shut down non-vital functions when they dive to depths of up to 10,000 feet (3,000 meters). As a result, nutrient-rich poop remains along the ocean surface and creates plankton blooms, which capture carbon dioxide in the atmo-



People walk past a mural of a whale created by artist Marcus Cuffi in Roseau, Dominica, Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023.

Associated Press

sphere and drag it to the ocean floor when they die. And sperm whales in Dominica are believed to defecate more than whales elsewhere, said Shane Gero, a whale biologist and founder of the Dominica Sperm Whale Project, a research program focused on sperm whales in the eastern Caribbean. It's unclear why sperm whales seem to defecate more in Dominica. Gero said it could be they're eating twice as much, or

maybe there's something particular about the type of squid they're eating.

"In some respects, sperm whales are fighting climate change on our behalf," Gero said in an interview. Less than 500 sperm whales are estimated to live in the waters surrounding Dominica, part of a population that moves along the Lesser Antilles chain, swimming as far south as St. Vincent and north into Guadeloupe. Unlike sperm whales elsewhere in the world,

the ones around the eastern Caribbean don't travel very far, Gero said.

He noted that sperm whales are a matrilineal society, with young males leaving and switching oceans at some point in their lives. As a result, protecting the species is key, especially if few female calves are born, he said.

"One calf being entangled can mean the end of a family," he said.

Sperm whales can produce a single calf every

five to seven years. In waters around Dominica and elsewhere, sperm whales have been hit by ships, entangled in fishing gear and affected by agricultural runoff, limiting their survival. In the pre-whaling days, an estimated 2 million sperm whales roamed the Earth's deep waters before they were hunted for oil used to burn lamps and lubricate machinery. Now, some 800,000 are left, Gero said. The government of Dominica said the reserve will allow sustainable artisanal fishing and delineate an international shipping lane to avoid more deaths of sperm whales, which have the largest brain in the world and can grow up to 50 feet (15 meters).

Once the reserve is created, the prime minister said his administration will appoint an officer and observers to ensure the area is respected and that whale tourism regulations are enforced. Visitors can still swim with sperm whales and see them from a boat, but in limited numbers.

The move was praised by scientists and conservationists including Enric Sala, an explorer-in-residence at National Geographic. □



Riot police detain a demonstrator during a protest against mobilization in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022.

Associated Press

By JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Western countries on Monday repeatedly called on Russia to end domestic repression of dissident voices and end its war in Ukraine — and hu-

man rights violations related to it — as Russia came under a regular review at the U.N.'s top rights body. A delegation from Moscow, led by State Secretary and Deputy Justice Minister Andrei Loginov,

Russian U.N. envoys shoot back at Western criticism of its Ukraine war and crackdown on dissidents

defended Russia's right to ensure law and order by restricting some forms of protest or voices that might threaten domestic security. He also said Russia's "special military operation" in Ukraine had "no relation to the subject matter" at issue in the review. Monday's 3 1/2-hour hearing in Geneva was part of an exercise known as the universal periodic review, or UPR, which all U.N. member states face about every four or five years in connection with the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council.

Russia came under widespread international condemnation after President

Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine in February last year. Two separate teams of U.N.-backed investigators have been commissioned to look into both rights abuses carried out in Ukraine and domestically in Russia. Western countries during Monday's session denounced the deportation of Ukrainian children, Russia's crackdown on civil society and the arrest of rights defenders, including Alexei Navalny and Vladimir Kara-Murza. They also condemned Russia for curbing the rights of LGBTQI people and those protesting against the war.

"Where does one start?

Since the last UPR, Russia's repression at home has intensified, enabling its oppression overseas — not least the continuing atrocities in Ukraine," said Britain's ambassador in Geneva. Yevheniia Filipenko, Ukraine's ambassador to the U.N., pointed to the "irrefutable evidence of Russia's gross and systematic human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity" in her country, and denounced ongoing attacks on civilians including "killings, torture, rape, deportations. For the endless list of international crimes, Russia will be held accountable." □

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In a show full of light, music, and with performances to famous musical figures like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and Tina Turner, the group consisting of 15 people from various countries delights the audience with their artistic prowess at the Paseo Herencia Mall, every Wednesday and Friday starting at 7pm. Each day has a different show, so you can attend both nights for the complete experience!

The group, under the leadership of directors and creators Diego Jaramillo and Yamila Hernandez are opening the doors to the ballroom

to our local audience as well as our visitors so that everyone can have the privilege of experiencing this wonderful show.

Hernandez explained that the idea for this project started in 2010 when she came to work in Aruba. After being on the island for a while she decided to stay and live here, and she met Diego Jaramillo, who is currently her partner. Together they came with the idea to establish a company together with other professional artists, with the goal of living from their art.

Hernandez says that the work is hard – all of the performers are professional artists, and while the production of the show is not a challenge for them, selling the idea proved difficult since at the time, there weren't any shows of its kind on the island.

America's Got Talent

Currently they are offering a show with music, choreography and at the end, they have a shocking acrobatics ending, one that was seen by thousands of people around the world when the group travelled to Los Angeles in the United States to represent Aruba in America's Got Talent. Hernandez said that the show was very important for them to meet the public present because people could experience this performance live and right before their eyes.

Their presentation in America's Got Talent "was incredible" and they were able to meet the jury and many other artists staying there for three



months. But the exhaustion and physical toll was so great that Diego suffered an accident, and because of this, they had to cancel all future commitments.

Reservations and tickets

To make a reservation to see this incredible display of creativity and acrobatics, scan the QR code which will take you directly to their website for a booking. To find more information about RCCA, please visit their Instagram page @rccaruba. □



The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a

young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grind-



ing the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant. □

Sources: Etnia Nativa & goldmineranch.com.

Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

Museum of Industry Aruba
The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower

in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm. For more information, check out their Facebook



page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a fam-

ily home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition

space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □

Experience Aruban culture with this exciting theme night featuring a Carnival show, mixology bar, local artists and more. You can sample Aruban cuisine, including delicious BBQ options with a tropical twist. A local brass band will be performing, and you can pose with elaborately dressed Carnival dancers for a memorable photo op as well, so don't miss it.

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Aruba to me

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again.

For today we received a lovely message from **Sharon and Charles Nemser from Williamstown, MA, USA.**

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is heaven on earth. My husband, Charlie and I have been coming to Aruba since 1987...every year.

Our first visit we stayed at The Golden Tulip. On an overcast, rainy day we were approached by a gentlemen to talk about purchasing timeshare. We didn't know exactly what that was, but we thought let's do it, we can get a free jeep for a couple days. So we had a free lunch, talked for about an hour and bought pre-construction a studio at Divi Village. So we got much more than we anticipated.

Little did we know that the purchase included the lifelong friends we would make with locals and tourists alike. Little did we know

the purchase included paradise, relaxation, beautiful waters and weather, fine dining from casual to formal, and a life long love of this incredible island.

Fast forward 36 years and we now own enough points to come at least 3 times a year for 20 weeks total. 66 visits later we fall in love all over again as we approach the island from the air. We always have 2-3 visits booked in advance before we even touch down.

Gone are the days of only small businesses and walking the tarmac as the island is constantly growing and evolving year by year.

Nothing can EVER replace the friendliness, the kindness, and appreciation we always experience each and every visit to this friendly, safe island.

We love Aruba, as do our children and grandchildren. We have introduced many family and friends to



our little home away from home and each of them has fallen in love.

We travel elsewhere, but we always return here to our little piece of heaven."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.

The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their

land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one

involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitchhike, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitch hiker braced

for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone grew quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass contributes a lot to our culture of folkloric story-telling. □

Source: visitaruba.com

Today is going to be a good day

(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls



The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.arubanationalpark.org

Philip's Animal Garden



To stay with the animals, let's hop to an amazing place. Something different to do, an experience that is to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Welcome to Philip's Animal Garden. We are not talking about a zoo here, this is actually a sanctuary for all types of creatures, from horses to peacocks, kangaroos to turtles, mon-

keys, goats, and many, many more different species. The place was founded in 2009 and it is the only organization rescuing and rehabilitating exotic animals in Aruba, which has resulted in an amazing collection of these animals. They provide a suitable living environment for all the rescued animals. Up until now the owner, Philip, has built this shelter with his own efforts; building all the cages from scratch, designing all structures and welding them with his own bare hands. His goal is to upgrade the facilities to a world-class animal shelter with veterinary care and round-the-clock staffs. With the input from the Aruban community and visitors they provide the best care for these animals. Please check out their website for more information: www.philipsanimalgarden.com.

The Lighthouse



No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. www.arubalighthouse.com will give you more information.

Kayak in the Mangroves



Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature:

take a kayak. While you are doing some work-out -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook.

Take an "off-road" sightseeing tour



A must-do activity on the island is for sure taking an off-road sightseeing tour. If you have a rented car, you can drive through the north-eastern side of Aruba and explore the natural pools, caves, rock formations and gorgeous view of the Atlantic Ocean. To access most of these sights, like the natural pool (Conchi) and the Guadirikiri and Fontein caves, you must enter through the Arikok National Park and buy a day pass. Then you drive up the rugged road that leads you through the white dunes, caves and along the wind turbines. Other locations, like the Ayo and Casibari Rock formation are situated more in the center of the island, and are free for guests, 24 hours a day.

Go for a shopping spree in the city center



Need a new bathing suit? Head to the city center of Oranjestad, where there is countless of different stores—both high end and more affordable—that can offer you the service you deserve! Local shopping stores often offer a more affordable price, and have a variety of clothes, shoes, bathing suites, purses and more. Along the Royal Plaza strip, there are numerous jewelry stores with great quality jewelry. In the Renaissance mall, you can shop high-end luxury brands, like Dolce & Gabbana, Kate Spade, Louis Vuitton and more.

Around the high-rise hotel area near Palm Beach, the Paseo Herencia Mall contain a variety of shopping stores, restaurants, small food stands and even a movie theater! □

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Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to Etnia Nativa, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Fa-

ther Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, The History of Alto Vista by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from



Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves

belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 47 Tests
 - 1 Plains tribe
 - 6 Trivia fodder
 - 11 Egypt's Sadat
 - 12 Boise's state
 - 13 Designer's asset
 - 14 Eternal City resident
 - 15 Fencing sword
 - 17 Sty resident
 - 18 Not too bad to tolerate
 - 22 Avenue liners
 - 23 Skewed views
 - 27 Honolulu hello
 - 29 Treasure stash
 - 30 Swindle
 - 32 Pine or palm
 - 33 Preference, informally
 - 35 Diet no-no
 - 38 Realize
 - 39 Suspect's defense
 - 41 Sun-powered
 - 45 Diner pages
 - 46 Packing box
- DOWN**
- 1 "Krazy —"
 - 2 One — million
 - 3 Hurt responses
 - 4 Turning point
 - 5 Corn pancake
 - 6 Like a cabin at night
 - 7 Commotion
 - 8 Summer spot for some
 - 9 Bangkok native
 - 10 Ditty
 - 16 Flow out
 - 18 Pulsate
 - 19 Singer Fitzgerald
 - 20 In a frenzy
 - 21 Soil burrower
 - 24 Ticked off
 - 25 At any time
 - 26 Beholds
 - 28 Hollywood greeting
 - 31 Convent resident
 - 34 Puccini opera
 - 35 Renown
 - 36 Baseball's Rodriguez
 - 37 Singer Turner
 - 40 Lazy fellow
 - 42 Pet perch
 - 43 Had breakfast
 - 44 Stop color

C	R	O	W	S		P	E	R	C	Y
R	E	M	I	T		A	T	A	L	E
E	L	E	N	A		N	A	D	I	A
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L	U	K	A	S		N	I	E	C	E
S	P	A	N	K		S	C	R	O	D

Saturday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				
13					14				
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18	19	20				21			
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39			40		41	42	43	44	
45					46				
47					48				

11-13

AXYDI.BAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-13 CRYPTOQUOTE
GLQ`U V LK ALPR QRZ VLFO

MQ UJR CNAA? MU BNORW BR
ZNQU UL IKV WSJLLA

WKXXAMRW. QLFN RXJFLQ
Saturday's Cryptoquote: IT LOOKED LIKE THE WORLD WAS COVERED IN A COBBLER CRUST OF BROWN SUGAR AND CINNAMON. — SARAH ADDISON ALLEN

How to reduce your 'widow's penalty'

By LIZ WESTON
of NerdWallet

After a spouse dies, the survivor often ends up paying higher taxes on less income — something known by accountants and financial planners as the "widow's penalty," because women typically outlive their husbands.

Couples who know what's coming often can take steps to soften the penalty's effect, but too many don't think far enough ahead, says Barbara O'Neill, a certified financial planner and educator in Ocala, Florida. "A lot of people just underestimate what the impact will be financially," O'Neill says.

INCOMES PLUNGE BUT EXPENSES MAY NOT

A spouse's death often leads to a substantial drop in income. Wages or salary typically end if the deceased spouse was still working, and many people don't have enough life insurance to replace that loss.

If a couple is retired and receiving Social Security, the benefit amount can drop by one third to one half. The survivor gets the larger of the two checks the couple received, and the smaller benefit goes away. If the deceased spouse received pension or annuity payments, the survivor may get a reduced amount or nothing at all, depending on what payout option the couple chose.

The income decline may be offset by lower expenses, such as reduced bills for groceries or auto insurance for one vehicle instead of two, says O'Neill, author of "Flipping a Switch: Your Guide to Happiness and Financial Security in Later Life." But some expenses could go up. The survivor



A couple watches the sun set from a park, July 10, 2021, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

may hire help to perform some of the chores the deceased previously handled, for example. Or they may want to subscribe to a medical alert service now that they're living alone, she says. And then there are the tax bills.

TAXES AND MEDICARE PREMIUMS CAN CHANGE AFTER A DEATH

A surviving spouse can use the favorable "married filing jointly" status in the year their partner dies, as long as the survivor doesn't remarry before the year ends. After that, survivors without dependent children are typically forced to use the less favorable "single" filing status.

The standard deduction for a married couple — \$27,700 in 2023 — is twice that of a single person. Plus, taxpayers who are married filing jointly can have taxable income up to \$89,450 and remain in the 12% federal tax bracket. That bracket ends at \$44,725 for single filers. The next tax bracket is 22%. Survivors receiving Social Security can find that more of their benefit gets taxed. Up to 85% of Social Security benefits are taxable if "combined income" — adjusted gross income, plus nontaxable interest, plus

half of Social Security benefits — exceeds \$44,000 for a couple. For a single person, the limit is \$34,000. Survivors on Medicare might see their premiums rise, thanks to a surcharge known as the income-related monthly adjustment amount, or IRMAA. The surcharge is based on the tax return from two years prior. So couples with incomes over \$194,000 on their 2021 tax returns faced a surcharge in 2023 that ranged from \$65.90 to \$395.60 per month. The surcharges kicked in for singles when their income exceeded \$97,000.

PLANNING CAN HELP REDUCE THE PENALTY

Couples can help reduce the survivor's penalty by adding tax-free sources of income, financial planners say. Life insurance — which can provide tax-free proceeds to the survivor — is one option, but buying a sufficiently large policy may not be affordable for older people, O'Neill notes. Another possibility is having at least some money in tax-free accounts, such as Roth IRAs and health savings accounts, so survivors can better manage their tax bills.

If most of the couple's savings is in traditional retirement accounts, such as regular IRAs and 401(k)s, couples could consider converting at least some of the funds to a Roth IRA while they still enjoy favorable married filing jointly rates, says (18) Marianela Collado, chief executive of Tobias Financial Advisors in Plantation, Florida. □

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Saving Brazil's golden monkey, one green corridor at a time



Golden lion tamarins sit on a branch as students plant tree seedlings that will form an ecological corridor to allow a safe passageway for the region's most emblematic and endangered species: the golden lion tamarin in the rural interior of Rio de Janeiro, Silva Jardim, Brazil, Friday, Nov. 10, 2023.

Associated Press

By DIANE JEANTET
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

Dozens of young people knelt under the scorching sun this week in Rio de Janeiro's rural interior, planting a green corridor that will be a future safe passageway for the region's most emblematic and endangered species, the golden lion tamarin. The 300 tree seedlings they planted this week — only inches tall at present — will eventually connect two patches of forest together. It is the latest in a series of incremental forest growth initiatives driven by environmentalists, providing an ever-larger habitat for the monkey.

Until recently, the bare and dry land they were replanting belonged to a ranch owner who had torn down its trees for cattle pasture.

Rampant deforestation over centuries has decimated this part of Brazil's Atlantic Forest, the only place in the world where the small, copper-colored monkey whose face is framed by a silken mane can be found. With fewer than 5,000 individuals, it is considered an endangered species.

"One of the biggest problems is the fragmentation of the forest," said Luís Paulo Ferraz, executive director of the Golden Lion Tamarin Association, known by its Portuguese acronym AMLD. "Otherwise the monkeys start mating within their own families." Ferraz says monkeys are too scared to cross the few hundred meters of bare land that sometimes separate two isles of green vegetation, fearing they might become the prey of larger

predators, such as big cats. Hence the need for green corridors. Applauding their effort Friday was Sarah Darwin, the great great granddaughter of Charles Darwin. The British botanist was joined by a handful of young naturalists who are retracing the sailboat expedition taken by Charles Darwin nearly 200 years ago that led to his theory of evolution, part of a project called Darwin200.

"He arrived in the Brazilian Mata Atlantica forest and had a moment of clarity ... a peak experience, where he felt at one with nature," Darwin said as she entered the forest, known for its astonishing diversity of mosses, ferns and other vegetation. In the canopy above, the small golden monkeys with long tails were jumping from one branch to another. "One of the most enduring experiences of his life," she added.

Before colonization by the Portuguese in the 16th century, the Atlantic forest

biome covered 330 million acres (more than 500,000 square miles) near and along Brazil's coast. Less than 15% of that remains today, according to The Nature Conservancy.

In the specific region of the Atlantic forest where golden lion tamarins can be found, the forest is down to just 2% of its original size, Ferraz said.

Sugar cane and coffee plantations were the main driver of early deforestation. Then came urban development and cattle pastures. In the 1970s, when scientists began efforts to save the species, there were just 200 golden lion tamarins left, according to AMLD. □

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Projects featuring Lady Bird Johnson's voice offer new looks at the late first lady

By **JAMIE STENGLE**

Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Texas college student Jade Emerson found herself entranced as she worked on a podcast about Lady Bird Johnson, listening to hour upon hour of the former first lady recounting everything from her childhood memories to advising her husband in the White House.

"I fell in love very quickly," said Emerson, host and producer of the University of Texas podcast "Lady Bird." "She kept surprising me."

The podcast, which was released earlier this year, is among several recent projects using Johnson's own lyrical voice to offer a new look at the first lady who died in 2007. Other projects include a documentary titled "The Lady Bird Diaries" that premieres Monday on Hulu and an exhibit in Austin at the presidential library for her husband, Lyndon B. Johnson, who died in 1973. Lady Bird Johnson began recording an audio diary in the tumultuous days after her husband became president following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. The library released that audio about a decade after her death. It adds to recorded interviews she did following her husband's presidency and home movies she narrated. "I don't know that people



A visitor views items on display at the Lady Bird: Beyond the Wildflowers exhibit at the LBJ Library, Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

appreciated or realized how much she was doing behind the scenes and I think that's the part that's only just now really starting to come out," said Lara Hall, LBJ Presidential Library curator.

"Lady Bird: Beyond the Wildflowers" shows library visitors the myriad ways Johnson made an impact. Hall said the exhibit, which closes at the end of the year, has been so popular that the library hopes to integrate parts of it into its permanent display.

In making her podcast, Emerson, who graduated from UT in May with a journalism

degree, relied heavily on the interviews Johnson did with presidential library staff over the decades after her husband left the White House in 1969.

"Just to have her telling her own story was so fascinating," Emerson said. "And she just kept surprising me. Like during World War II when LBJ was off serving, she was the one who ran his congressional office in the 1940s. She had bought a radio station in Austin and went down to Austin to renovate it and get it going again."

The new documentary from filmmaker Dawn Por-

ter, based on Julia Sweig's 2021 biography "Lady Bird Johnson: Hiding in Plain Sight" and a podcast hosted by the author, takes viewers through the White House years. From advising her husband on strategy to critiquing his speeches, her influence is quickly seen. Porter also notes that Johnson was "a fierce environmentalist" and an advocate for women. She was also a skilled campaigner, Porter said. Among events the documentary recounts is Johnson's tour of the South aboard a train named the "Lady Bird Special" before the 1964 election.

With racial tensions simmering following the passage of the Civil Rights Act, President Johnson sent his wife as his surrogate. "She does that whistle-stop tour in the very hostile South and does it beautifully," Porter said.

"She did all of these things and she didn't ask for credit, but she deserves the credit," Porter said.

The couple's daughter Luci Baines Johnson can still remember the frustration she felt as a 16-year-old when she saw the message hanging on the doorknob to her mother's room that read: "I want to be alone." Lady Bird Johnson would spend that time working on her audio tapes, compiling her thoughts from photographs, letters and other information that might strike her memory.

"She was just begging for the world to give her the time to do what she'd been uniquely trained to do," said Luci Baines Johnson, who noted that her mother had degrees in both history and journalism from the University of Texas.

"She was just beyond, beyond and beyond," she said. "She thought a day without learning was a day that was wasted."

Emerson called her work on the podcast "a huge gift" as she "spent more time with Lady Bird than I did with anyone else in my college years." □



This cover image released by Sony Legacy Recordings shows "The Complete Budokan 1978" by Bob Dylan. Sony Legacy Recordings via Associated Press

By **SCOTT BAUER**

Associated Press

Bob Dylan with flute and saxophone isn't for everyone.

Bob Dylan's 'The Complete Budokan 1978' box set is a welcomed release, flute and all

But that's what you get with "The Complete Budokan 1978," a deluxe box set presenting two live shows at Tokyo's Nippon Budokan Hall, from a tour that has been derided in some corners as "Dylan going Vegas."

The extravagantly packaged four-disc set expands upon the 1979 "Bob Dylan at Budokan" live record that caught Dylan in Japan on just the second week of his 1978 world tour that would run for 10 months.

The tour started after the widely acclaimed Rolling Thunder guerilla tours across the United States in 1975 and 1976, and just before Dylan's conversion to Christianity in 1979.

In fact, Dylan has pointed to a fan throwing a small silver cross on stage in November 1978 as helping to spur his conversion. But that's a story for another time, and one that was explored deeply in the "Trouble No More" box set released in 2017.

"The Complete Budokan 1978" includes full concerts from Feb. 28 and March 1, 1978 with Dylan breaking out dramatically reworked versions of his well-known songs complete with backing singers, violin, flute and saxophone.

Even today, 45 years later, the arrangements are striking for how far afield they are from the recorded versions.

On "Mr. Tambourine Man," Dylan speeds up the tem-

po with the flute front and center. And on "I Threw it All Away," the backing singers are given a prominent role as Dylan tinkers with the lyrics. If you ever wanted to hear "All Along the Watchtower" with flute, now is your chance.

It can be jarring for those not already well-versed with the original 1979 live release. But for Dylan fans who have eschewed this period of his career, there are hidden gems here worth uncovering. □

Biden honors Stanley Cup champion Vegas Golden Knights in the return of an NHL tradition

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**

AP Hockey Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden joked about ignoring his sagging poll numbers in Nevada and thanked the NHL's Vegas Golden Knights for their role in helping the city recover from the 2017 mass shooting when he honored them Monday at a White House ceremony for winning the Stanley Cup. Taking a brief respite from world events, Biden marveled at a hockey team that plays in the desert celebrating a championship and shined a spotlight not only on the Golden Knights' on-ice accomplishments but the organization's work in the community, most notably in the aftermath of the Oct. 1, 2017, shooting on the Las Vegas Strip.

"Showing up for victims' families, survivors, first responders — in fact, your championship ring honors them," Biden said. "The diamonds on your rings form a star: the same star on the banner that you raised that honored 58 people who were lost on that day. You guys are something else." Players said politics never came up in their private meeting with Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, adding most of the conversation was about how they won the franchise's first title. This visit was the



President Joe Biden stands for a photo during an event to celebrate the Vegas Golden Knights in their 2023 Stanley Cup victory in the East Room of the White House, Monday, Nov. 13, 2023, in Washington. Standing with the President and team is Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nev.

Associated Press

first by an NHL team since the Tampa Bay Lightning in April 2022, when they celebrated their back-to-back titles won during the pandemic in 2020 and '21. The 2022 champion Colorado Avalanche were unable to visit last season because of scheduling conflicts. "We hope to be able to do it again," Vegas coach Bruce Cassidy said. "But you never know. May be a once in a lifetime." A couple of players have done this before: American defenseman Alec Martinez, who won the Cup with Los Angeles in 2012 and '14,

was honored by Barack Obama, and Canadian Alex Pietrangolo, who captained St. Louis to a title in 2019 and took part in a ceremony with Donald Trump. Vegas has those players and a vast majority of its roster back from last season and with 12 wins in 15 games is off to one of the best starts for a reigning champion in league history. Cassidy thinks the continuity makes this season feel a bit like an extension of that success, and more winning added a brighter shine to the festivities. "It makes days like today more enjoyable,"

playoff leading scorer Jack Eichel said. "It's been a good start to our season. Obviously want to continue doing that, but, yeah, it's a celebration of what we accomplished last year and then we're back to work." The Golden Knights actually practiced Monday, a rarity for teams following a White House visit. But the schedule set up that way given the cross-country travel preceding the start of a five-game road trip that opens with a game against the Washington Capitals on Tuesday night. It's also back to work

for Biden, who's campaigning for reelection next year and quipped of Nevada having "the polling data I'm not paying much attention to." He also is dealing with the Israel-Hamas war and and is set to travel to San Francisco for a meeting later this week with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"Obviously, there's a lot more important things on hand for him to do," Martinez said. "So, to take a little bit of time out of their day to allow us to have this experience is pretty special." Team captain Mark Stone, who is Canadian, delivered remarks after Biden spoke, calling Las Vegas the entertainment capital of the world and contrasting it with the president's home state of Delaware. He got emotional at times and shook off nerves that overwhelmed someone used to playing hockey in front of sellout crowds of 20,000. Biden pointed out it was the second visit by a Las Vegas team this fall, after Harris honored the WNBA champion Aces. They'll be back after winning another title, the NFL's Raiders have won two in a row, the area is hosting a Formula One race this weekend and a Major League Baseball team is on the way pending approval of the Oakland Athletics moving to Las Vegas. □

Carlos Alcaraz loses to Alexander Zverev in his ATP Finals debut

By **ANDREW DAMPF**

AP Sports Writer

TURIN, Italy (AP) — Considering all that he's accomplished over the last two years — two Grand Slam titles and finishing last season as No. 1 — Carlos Alcaraz no doubt belongs among the world's elite. Still, this wouldn't have been the ATP Finals debut the 20-year-old Spaniard was hoping for at the season-ending event for the year's top eight players. After missing the finals last

year because of an abdominal injury, Alcaraz was beaten in his opening match on Monday by two-time champion Alexander Zverev 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-4. Zverev also missed last year's edition after tearing ligaments in his right ankle in the French Open semifinals. But the big-serving German clearly likes the fast conditions inside the Pala Alpitour, where he claimed the title two years ago. Zverev served 16 aces to

Alcaraz's 11, saved five of six break points, and never really let Alcaraz feel in control. Zverev overcame a scare late in the third set when he was chasing down a forehand from Alcaraz, lost his grip, slipped and fell to the court clutching his left ankle. But Zverev quickly shook it off and held in that game for a 4-2 lead. "I didn't twist my ankle. I just kind of slipped. And kind of maybe pinched my Achilles, my capsule a little bit," Zverev said. "Hopefully it's



Germany's Alexander Zverev returns the ball to Spain's Carlos Alcaraz during their singles tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals at the Pala Alpitour, in Turin, Italy, Monday, Nov. 13, 2023.

Associated Press

nothing too major and I can continue playing." Zverev faced a break point while serving for the match

and responded with an ace down the middle. Two points later, the match was over. □

Walkoff field goals and tight games highlight competitive Sunday

By **ROB MAADDI**

AP Pro Football Writer

Walkoff field goals. Comebacks. Close games.

Sunday was filled with competitive action across the NFL. Just the way the league wants it.

Five games ended on game-winning field goals in regulation, the most in one day in NFL history. Two teams overcame deficits on their final drive. Eight games were decided by four points or less.

"I'm so proud of our team and excited for them to be in a tight football game versus a playoff football team and come up with a win," Texans coach DeMeco Ryans said following Houston's 30-27 win at Cincinnati. "That's where we're headed as a team. We're showing that we're a good team, and we're showing that we can win tight games, so I'm really proud of the way our guys battled."

With one game remaining in Week 10, 10 of 13 games (76.9%) have been within one score in the fourth quarter and 10 games were decided by one score. This season, 69.8% of all games (104 of 149 games) were within one score in the fourth quarter.

The Texans, Cardinals, Browns, Seahawks and Lions each won on a field goal as time expired. The



Seattle Seahawks place kicker Jason Myers (5) kicks a field goal in the second half of an NFL football game against the Washington Commanders in Seattle, Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023.

Associated Press

previous high in a single day was three. Cleveland and Arizona were trailing before their kickers won it. Seattle, Houston and Detroit were tied before their decisive field goals.

The Browns rallied from a 31-17 deficit in the fourth quarter against the AFC North-leading Ravens. Deshaun Watson threw a touchdown pass to Elijah Moore and Greg Newsome II returned an interception 34 yards for a TD less than a minute later but Dustin Hopkins missed the extra point. He got another chance

and nailed a 40-yard field goal to give Cleveland a 33-31 win.

"Wins like that define you," Browns pass rusher Myles Garrett said. "They set the tone for the season and the team going forward. There's no game that we're out of. So, you've just got to do what's gotten us here to this point in the season and continue to play the brand of football that we know we can play."

Kyler Murray, playing his first game since returning from ACL surgery, led the Cardinals to a 25-23 come-

back win over Atlanta. He scrambled 13 yards on a third-and-10 and threw a 33-yard pass to set up Matt Prater's 23-yard winning kick. "There's no quit, no quit, no quit in that group and I think we showed that today," Murray said.

The Lions-Chargers game was the most entertaining matchup of the day, a wild, back-and-forth shootout that ended with Riley Patterson hitting a 41-yard field goal to lift Detroit to a 41-38 victory.

The teams combined to go 7 for 8 on fourth down

with six of those conversions resulting in touchdowns, three for each team.

The one conversion that didn't result in a score took the most guts. Lions coach Dan Campbell bypassed a go-ahead field goal on fourth-and-2 from the Chargers 26 with 1:47 left. Instead, Jared Goff tossed a 6-yard pass to Sam LaPorta and Detroit ran down the clock to set up the winning kick as time expired.

"I wanted to finish with the ball," Campbell said. "I trusted our guys and trust Goff. Going into that situation, there can be a lot of time left if you kick a field goal. So, I just wanted to finish with the ball in our hands. I liked where we're at, offensively. We're playing good, Goff was in a good spot, I felt like that was the right thing to do."

It wasn't all fun and excitement on Sunday.

There also was an abundance of penalty flags, poor tackling, sloppy mistakes and terrible quarterback play in a few of the games.

Mac Jones got benched by Bill Belichick after throwing an interception from the Colts 15 with under five minutes left. Mike Gesicki was wide open in the end zone but Jones underthrew him and was picked at the 1. □



This is a 2023 photo of James Rowson of the Detroit Tigers baseball team.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — James Rowson, who developed a good relationship with Aaron Judge in the minor leagues, was hired Monday as the Yankees hitting coach after a season in

which New York finished with the next-to-worst batting average in the major leagues.

Dillon Lawson was fired at the All-Star break after 1 1/2 seasons as hitting coach in

James Rowson returns to Yankees as hitting coach after New York finished 29th in batting average

New York's first in-season coaching change since Nardi Contreras replaced Billy Connors as pitching coach in July 1995. Lawson was replaced by Sean Casey, who decided he didn't want to return for 2024.

Rowson, 47, was the hitting coach of Class A Tampa in 2006 and '07 and was the Yankees minor league hitting coordinator from 2008-11 and 2014-16, the last three years as Judge worked his way up the farm system.

Rowson left the Yankees to become the Chicago Cubs' minor league hitting

coordinator in 2012, then was promoted to major league hitting coach from June 2012 through the 2013 season. He was the Minnesota Twins' hitting coach from 2017-19 and was the Miami Marlins' bench coach from 2020-22 when the team was managed by former Yankees captain Don Mattingly. Rowson was the Detroit Tigers' assistant hitting coach this year.

A native of Mount Vernon, New York, Rowson played in the minor league systems of the Seattle Mariners (1995-96) and Yankees (1997) and independent ball in 1998. He coached

in the Angels' system at rookie level Provo (2002) and at Class A Cedar Rapids (2003) and Rancho Cucamonga (2004-05).

New York hit .227 this year, ahead of only Oakland's .223 and the third-lowest in Yankees history behind .214 in 1968 and .225 in 1967.

The Yankees missed the playoffs for the first time since 2016 and at 82-80 narrowly avoided what would have been their first losing season since 1992.

Owner Hal Steinbrenner called the season "awful" and general manager Brian Cashman termed it "a disaster." □